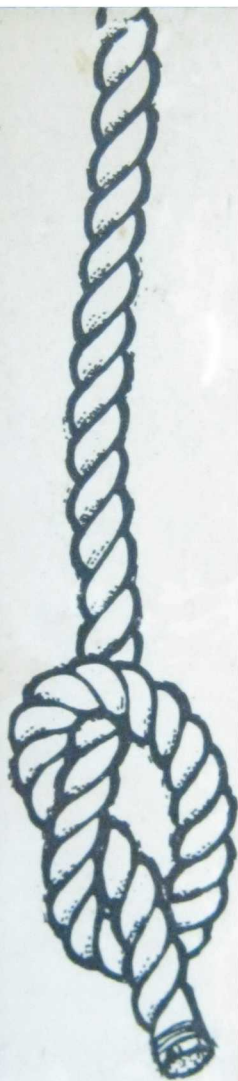


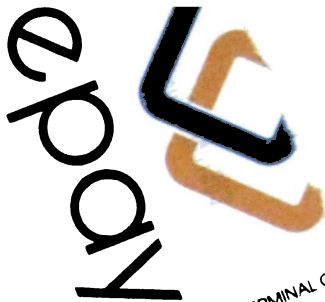
A Dictionary of KNOTS

by **ERIC FRANKLIN**
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A
DICTIONARY
OF
KNOTS

by

ERIC FRANKLIN

ILLUSTRATED BY THE
AUTHOR

Published by
THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION
25, Buckingham Palace Road,
London, S.W.1.

Published 1968

Reprinted 1971

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***Printed in Great Britain by C. Tinkling & Co. Ltd.,
Warrington Road, Prescott, Lancs.***

A DICTIONARY OF KNOTS

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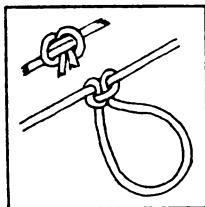
How many times has somebody said: "What knot is that?" or "What do you use this knot for?" Do you know what Racking Turns are or do you know what a Fid is and when you would use it? Do you know when to use a Water Bowline and when to use a Spanish Bowline?

These, and many similar questions are readily answered in this little book in which more than 130 different knots, splices and definitions find a place, with nearly one hundred illustrations. This dictionary does not attempt to illustrate nor to describe every known knot but it does cover all those likely to be used in normal rope work, pioneering, rescue and similar activities, together with most of the terminology employed in the "language of knots".

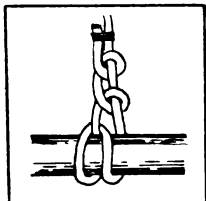
It is hoped that it will prove a useful pocket addition to the more massive (and more expensive) textbooks on the subject which are today available from the book shops and libraries.

Most of the contents of this book appeared in serial form in *The Scout* over a period of just over a year. Thanks are given to my good friend the Editor of that journal, which now is unfortunately no longer with us, for permission to use the material.

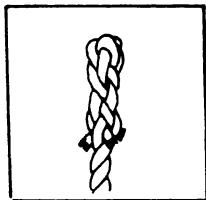




ALPINE BUTTERFLY



BACK HAND HITCH



BACK SPLICE

ALPINE BUTTERFLY. A loop knot tied in the bight. One of the several so-called "butterfly knots" which are used for the middle man on a rope when rock or mountain climbing. More than one of these knots has been called the "Alpine" Butterfly but the knot illustrated is believed to be the most effective in use.

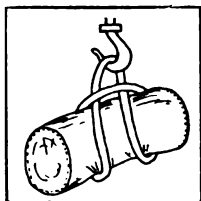
ANCHOR HITCH. There is no single specific knot known only by this name but the FISHERMAN'S BEND probably has first claim to the title. A variety of other hitches has been used for this purpose including the ROUND TURN AND TWO HALF HITCHES. See under relevant knots.

ANGLER'S LOOP. Another name for the MIDDLEMAN'S KNOT.

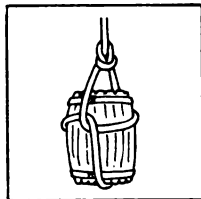
ARTILLERY KNOT. Another name for the MAN HARNESS KNOT.

BACK HAND HITCH. An excellent hitch which only requires a single pass round a post or spar, yet provides a double bearing. It is particularly useful when hitching to objects, access to which is difficult—for example, fixing a tow rope to the axle of an automobile.

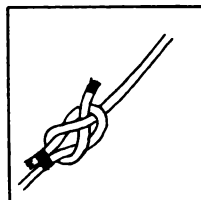
BACK SPLICE. Also known as CROWN SPLICE and DOG POINTING. A simple and effective method of finishing the end of a rope in which a CROWN KNOT is made with the strands at the end which are then spliced back into the rope. It is clumsy compared with Whipping but useful in an emergency or if it is desirable to know by feel when the end of the rope has been reached.



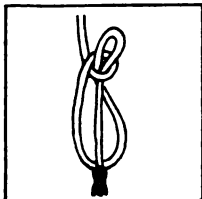
BALE SLING HITCH



BARREL HITCH



BECKET HITCH



BELLRINGERS' KNOT

BALE SLING HITCH. An effective hitch for slinging or hoisting cases, bales logs, etc. It cannot jam nor slip and is immediately cast off. It is the commonest form of **BARREL SLING** when the barrel must be hoisted with the burg uppermost. It has the same form as the **LARK'S HEAD KNOT**.

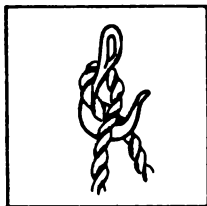
BARREL HITCH. This is the simplest yet most effective method of slinging or hoisting a barrel in a vertical position.

BECKET—definition. The eye or hook of a pulley block. A rope handle on a sailor's sea chest. An eye in the end of a rope. There are also certain specialised meanings.

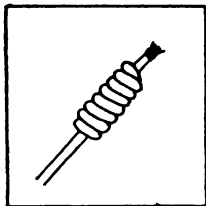
BECKET HITCH. Any hitch that is made on an eye, etc., i.e. on a "becket", is a Becket Hitch but *the* Becket Hitch is the one illustrated here. It has the same form as the Sheet Bend.

BELAY. To secure a rope with figure-of-eight turns round a belaying pin or a cleat, etc. Climbers have adopted the term from the sailor: the leader on a climb "belay" the following man by passing the rope across his shoulder or waist, taking up all the slack and paying out or drawing in under friction as the second man climbs.

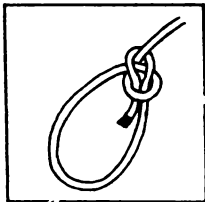
BELLRINGERS' KNOT. A method of taking up the slack of a rope when one end is secured at a height with the rope hanging. So-called because it is a common method used by bellringers to hoist up the bulk of the rope off the floor and out of the way. It is actually half a Sheepshank.



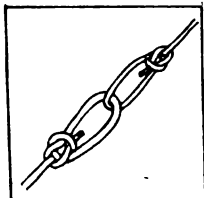
BLACKWALL HITCH



BLOOD KNOT



BOWLINE



BOWLINE BEND

BEND.—definition. A knot which is used to tie two ropes together by their ends. As a verb, the act of tying two ropes together by their ends.

BIGHT.—definition. 1. The portion of a rope between the end and the standing part. 2. Any slack part of a rope, particularly if in the form of a loop or partial loop.

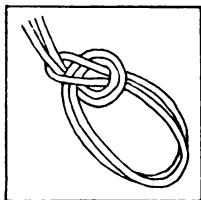


BLACKWALL HITCH. A simple yet secure method of fastening a rope to a hook: it should only be used when the thickness of the rope is nearly enough to fill the mouth of the hook. The **DOUBLE BLACKWALL HITCH** is a variation in which a turn is taken round the neck of the hook.

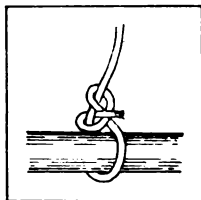
BLOOD KNOT. A multiple Overhand Knot tied in the end of a rope: used in the end of a heaving line. It derives its name from its use in a rope's end which was used as a weapon or for inflicting punishment, when it would often "draw blood". This knot was used by the Incas of Peru in "Quipus" or knot records.

BOWLINE. The most useful and one of the simplest ways of putting a fixed loop in the end of a rope. It is easy to tie and to untie, it never slips nor jams and has a high breaking strength. It has been called the "King of Knots".

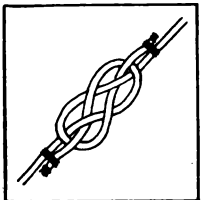
BOWLINE BEND. A bend formed from two interlocking Bowlines. Most useful for joining two ropes of widely different thicknesses.



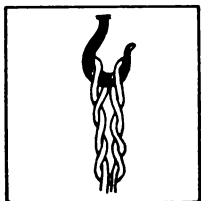
BOWLINE-ON-A-BIGHT



BUNTLINE HITCH



CARRICK BEND



CAT'S PAW

BOWLINE-ON-A-BIGHT. A double loop knot which is tied in the bight when the two ends are fixed or inaccessible. The strain should come equally on both standing parts. A good rescue or chair knot.

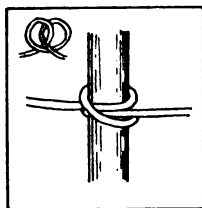
BUNTLINE HITCH. An excellent and safe knot. Since the second half-hitch is jammed inside the first it is superior to two half-hitches.

CABLE or CABLE LAID ROPE. Three plain or hawser laid ropes which are righthanded, laid up together lefthanded, making a nine-strand rope.

CABLE LENGTH. As a unit of measurement, 100 fathoms. As a length of actual cable, usually 120 fathoms.

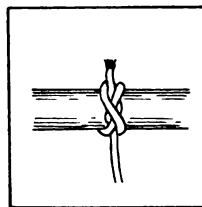
CARRICK BEND. An excellent knot, probably the nearest to the perfect bend. It is symmetrical, easy to tie, will not slip nor jam, is very strong and is easily untied. Its particular use is as a bend for hawsers and cables. It can be used in two forms, drawn up or open and seized and it should always be tied so that the two ends are diagonally opposite.

CAT'S PAW. The most suitable Hook Hitch for slings and probably the best. It cannot jam and spills immediately when taken from the hook. It is particularly suitable for heavy lifts.



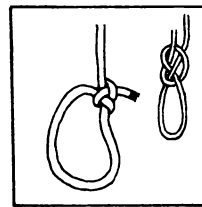
CLOVE HITCH

CLOVE HITCH. The nearest there is to a general utility hitch. It is easy to tie in a number of different ways and to untie. It has a wide variety of uses but care should be taken not to misuse it: it is so easy to use it when a more suitable hitch, e.g. a Rolling Hitch, etc. would serve better.



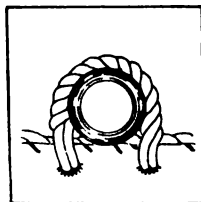
CONSTRUCTOR KNOT

CONSTRUCTOR KNOT. The best and most secure of all binder knots. Provided that it is tied on a convex surface it cannot slip and grips like a boa-constrictor—hence its name, given it by Ashley who discovered it. It is, however, often very difficult, and sometimes impossible, to untie it.



CRABBER'S EYE KNOT

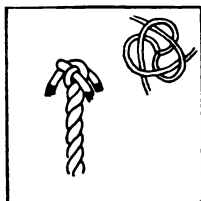
CORDAGE—definition. The general term for all twisted or laid-up rope, irrespective of size or material.



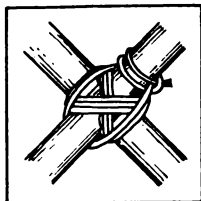
CRINGLE

CRABBERS' EYE KNOT. Also called the **CROSSED RUNNING KNOT**. When tied loosely, the standing part can be pulled and the knot slid to the required position: a pull on the end then locks it.

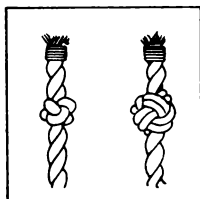
CRINGLE. A knot closely allied to splicing, in which a single strand is worked into another rope, such as the bolt rope of a sail, to provide a loop, usually to retain a thimble.



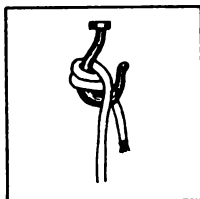
CROWN



DIAGONAL LASHING



DIAMOND KNOTS



DOUBLE BLACKWALL HITCH

CROWN. A knot that is tied in the end of a rope with the unlaid strands. It is seldom, if ever, used on its own but as a constituent part of a multiple knot, e.g. a Wall and Crown, etc. It is also used to commence a Back Splice. The Crown Knot is the exact opposite of the Wall Knot.

DIAGONAL LASHING. A lashing used for two crossing spars when it is necessary first to draw them together. Commonly used for the centre lashing of the diagonal braces on a Trestle.

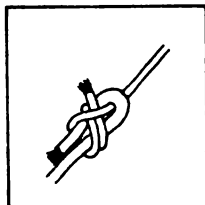
DIAMOND KNOT. A knot tied with the unlaid strands of a rope to provide a stopper or a foothold, etc. Also used as a decorative knot, for example, in lanyards. Can be increased in size and improved in appearance by "doubling".

DOGSHANK. Another name for the SHEEPSHANK.

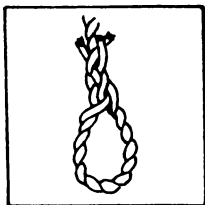
DOUBLE BLACKWALL HITCH. This has one more turn than the Blackwall Hitch and is sometimes recommended as being more secure. It is doubtful, however, whether this is the case and it would appear that this is an instance where the simpler form of the knot is to be preferred.

DOUBLE MATTHEW WALKER. See under MATTHEW WALKER.

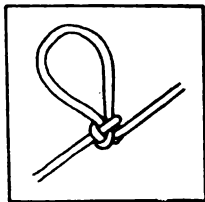
DOUBLE SHEET BEND. The Sheet Bend is never truly safe and secure when one rope is thicker than the other. The Double Sheet Bend is a



DOUBLE SHEET BEND



EYE SPLICE



FARMER'S LOOP

variation in which an extra turn is taken and, although it is no stronger, it is more secure. Still another turn can be taken, if thought advisable, making a **TRIPLE SHEET BEND**.

DRAW HITCH. See under **HIGHWAYMAN'S HITCH**.

END—definition. The termination of a rope or the free part towards the termination with which a knot is being tied.

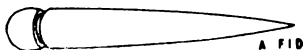
EYE—definition. A spliced, seized or knotted loop in a rope, usually at the end. It will often be fitted with a thimble.

EYE SPLICE. A method of putting a permanent eye in the end of a rope. The strands are unlaid, a loop of suitable size formed and the three strands spliced or worked in and out of the rope, usually under and over. Three "tucks" are normally taken.

FALL—definition. The rope of a tackle or sometimes the hauling end of a tackle.

FARMER'S LOOP. An excellent loop tied in the bight. It has a good lead is strong and secure and is tied by an ingenious and easily remembered method. It is to be preferred to the better known Man Harness Knot.

FID—definition. A long, tapering cone, usually of hard wood, used to open the strands in splicing, rounding out eyes, untying reluctant knots, etc. The rounded end is also used for pounding.



A FID

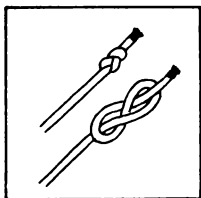
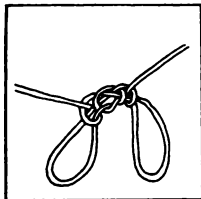
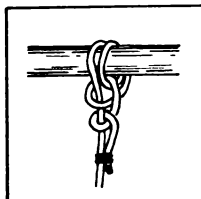


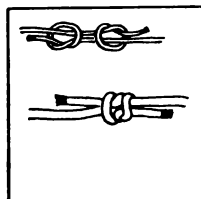
FIGURE-OF-EIGHT KNOT



FIREMAN'S CHAIR KNOT



FISHERMAN'S BEND



FISHERMAN'S KNOT

FIGURE-OF-EIGHT KNOT. Sometimes called the **FLEMISH KNOT**. A single strand **Stopper Knot**, usually when only a temporary stopper is required or when using small stuff.

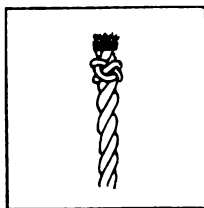
FIREMAN'S CHAIR KNOT. A double loop knot used for lowering an injured person from a height. It is tied in the bight, one end secured aloft and the other end used to control the direction of lowering.

FISHERMAN'S BEND. This is one of just three knots incorrectly called "bends" which are actually hitches. It is strong and secure and is probably the most used **Anchor Hitch**, apart from being an excellent hitch for all normal purposes.

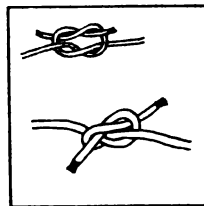
FISHERMAN'S KNOT. Also called **Water Knot**, **Angler's Knot**, etc. It is formed from two overhand knots each tied round the opposite end: it is very strong but rather bulky. It is not suitable for rope in general and is used mainly for small stuff. It is, however, beginning to find favour amongst climbers as a bend for nylon rope.

FLAKE—definition. A turn, or a number of turns in a coil of rope. **FLAKING**—coiling rope in various ways.

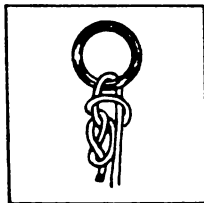
FOOTROPE KNOT. A stopper knot for the end of a rope. It is similar to the **Diamond Knot** but is tied by first making a **Crown** with the unlaidd strands and then a **Wall Knot** below the **Crown**, the ends being brought



FOOTROPE KNOT



GRANNY KNOT



HALTER HITCH

up through the centre of the Crown. This knot can be doubled by following through above the first lead. The name is often applied also to the Standing Turk's Head.

FRAPPING—definition. Crossing turns taken in a lashing or on the leads of a tackle to both tighten and secure them.

GRANNY KNOT. Also called the Lubber's Knot. It resembles a Reef Knot superficially but it is inferior and should never be used. As the two half knots are tied in the same direction and not opposite as in the Reef Knot, it tends either to slip or to jam, or both.

GUYLINE HITCH. See MIDSHIPMAN'S HITCH.

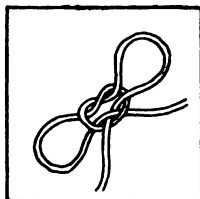
HALF HITCH. A single hitch made with one end round its own standing part. It is not secure on its own and is usually the beginning of a more elaborate hitch.



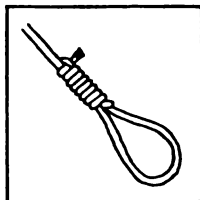
HALF HITCHES

HALTER HITCH. An excellent hitch for securing a rope to, say, a ring. It is untied simply by taking the end out of the loose bight and pulling it. Ashley states that this knot is used the world over for hitching horses.

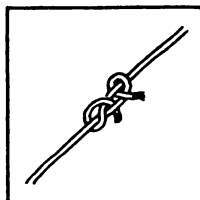
HALYARDS—definition. Ropes for hoisting sails or yards.



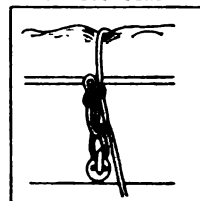
HANDCUFF KNOT



HANGMAN'S KNOT



HARNESS BEND



HARVESTER'S HITCH

HANDCUFF KNOT. A double loop knot suitable for use for handcuffing a prisoner. One loop is placed round each wrist, both ends pulled tight and then hitched round the neck of the loop. Basically, it is identical to the Fireman's Chair Knot when completed.

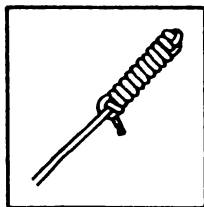
HANDY BILLY—definition. A small tackle kept handy for small jobs, consisting of two blocks, one with two sheaves (pulleys) and the other with one, ready reeved. The Harvester's Hitch, when used as an emergency tackle, is sometimes incorrectly called a Handy Billy.

HANGMAN'S KNOT. This knot needs no definition. It is made with eight or nine turns and not thirteen as is often superstitiously suggested. Apart from its obvious function, it is a useful knot for the end of a lanyard.

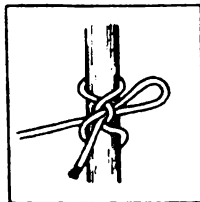
HARNESS BEND. A useful knot for small stuff in tying parcels, bales, etc. as it can be pulled tight and tied while under tension. It will not capsize and is very secure.

HARVESTER'S HITCH. Sometimes also called the HAYMAKER'S HITCH. Used by lorry or truck drivers to secure a load. When a tarpaulin is thrown over the load and is being tied down, additional purchase is obtained by the use of this knot and the rope drawn much tighter. The knot is also useful as an emergency tackle when blocks with sheaves are not immediately available.

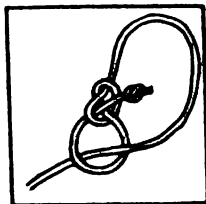
HAWSER—definition. A plain laid rope, laid up righthanded, large enough—from 5 to 24 inches in circumference—for towing and mooring.



HEAVING LINE KNOT



HIGHWAYMAN'S HITCH



HONDA KNOT

HEAVING LINE BEND. See RACKING BEND.

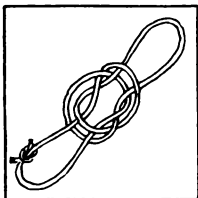
HEAVING LINE KNOT. Various arrangements are used to provide a weight at the end of a rope which has to be thrown any distance. That shown here is based on the Hangman's knot and is widely used. The best of the several knots for this purpose is probably the MONKEY'S FIST.

HIGHWAYMAN'S HITCH. A most useful Draw Hitch for securing a horse, a boat, etc. or in self-rescue work. The knot will take any amount of strain on the standing part but spills the moment the end is pulled. Legend has it that Dick Turpin used this knot on his nefarious errands: if in a hurry to escape, he just had to leap on his horse, Black Bess, at the same time snatching at the end, when he was away.

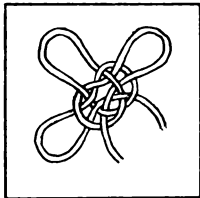
HITCH—definition. A knot which secures a rope to another object such as a post, spar or ring, etc., or, in certain circumstances, another rope, e.g. a Rolling Hitch.

HOIST — definition. The perpendicular edge of a sail or flag which is next to the mast or flagstaff.

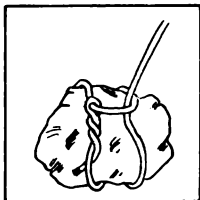
HONDA KNOT. A knot for making a lasso: it produces the most nearly circular of all loop knots. It is made simply by putting a knotted end through an Overhand Knot. It is sometimes called the BOWSTRING KNOT but present-day archers prefer to use the Timber Hitch or else a bowstring with two permanent loops.



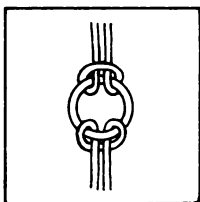
JAR SLING



JURY MAST KNOT



KILLICK HITCH



LARK'S HEAD

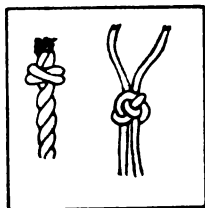
JAR SLING. A knot for slinging or carrying a jug, bottle, jar, etc., in fact anything which has some form of lip or restriction. The neck or mouth is placed in the middle of the knot and the ends pulled tight. This knot is also of interest since there are at least half-a-dozen separate and distinct ways of tying it.

JURY MAST KNOT. Originally used to put a strap round a temporary mast head to which stays could be made fast. Now more likely to be used for decorative purposes or perhaps at camp to hoist a food supply, etc. off the ground.

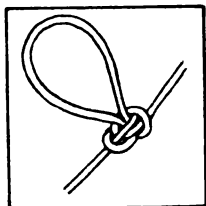
KILLICK HITCH or KELLEG HITCH and several other variations. This is a Timber Hitch with a Half Hitch added, usually round a large stone or chunk of rock. Used by small ships on bottoms where an anchor might foul: also used for anchoring lobster pots, seines, small boats, etc.

LARK'S HEAD. A useful hitch, equally suitable for casks and bales, or keys, knives, whistles or just labels and tags. Can be tied in the bight or with an end. Also known as COW HITCH, RING HITCH or, if in a sling, BALE SLING HITCH.

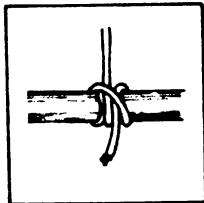
LANYARD—definition. (a) A small rope for securing the end of a stay. (b) A "handle" for almost anything portable, movable, or losable, e.g. whistles, axes, knives, marling spikes, etc. Sailors found lanyard making an opportunity for displaying their skill in decorative knotting.



LANYARD KNOTS



LINESMAN'S LOOP



MAGNUS HITCH

LANYARD KNOT. Various knots have been given this name but the Lanyard Knot proper is a stopper knot in the end of a rope (rigging lanyards). The name is also given to decorative knots on the other type of lanyard, particularly the one shown here.

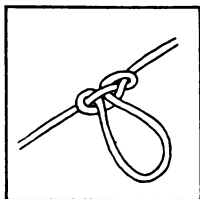
LASHING—definition. (a) Binding two or more objects together, usually spars, by means of turns of rope. (b) To secure a movable object by rope to prevent it shifting, as with deck cargo, etc.

LINE—definition. Common name for cordage, also used to make composite nouns such as lifeline, clothesline, fishline, etc.

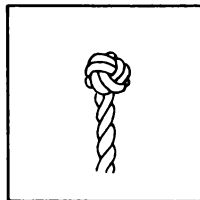
LINESMAN'S LOOP. An excellent loop knot tied in the bight. It is superior to the Man Harness Knot or Middleman's Knot.

LONG SPLICE. A splice which has no apparent thickening of the rope at the points of joining. Used where a rope has to pass through a block, or for endless belts used in lifts and mining applications, etc. Unfortunately, it is impractical to illustrate.

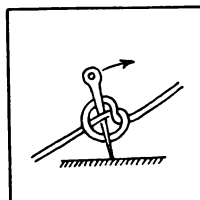
MAGNUS HITCH. There is much confusion between the Magnus Hitch and the Rolling Hitch and some authorities consider them to be the same knot. It is sometimes accepted that the Magnus Hitch is the form used on spars while the Rolling Hitch is the form used for hitching one rope to another—generally a smaller one to a larger. In both forms the strain can be taken at an acute angle. Compare illustrations.



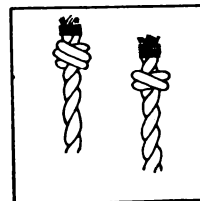
MAN HARNESS KNOT



MAN ROPE KNOT



MARLINGSPIKE HITCH



MATTHEW WALKERS

MAN HARNESS KNOT. Also called the **ARTILLERY KNOT**. A loop knot tied in the bight through which an arm can be put up to the shoulder to assist in hauling, while leaving the hands free. Formerly used on gun carriages, one end of the rope being fastened to a ring on the end of the axle.

MAN ROPE KNOT. A multi-strand knot in the end of a rope consisting of a Double Wall and Double Crown. Tied in the end of manropes and sideropes to provide a hand hold. It was properly made in four-strand rope and was often canvas covered.

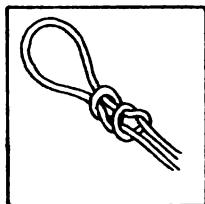
MARLINGSPIKE or **MARLINGSPIKE** —definition. A metal tool with a knobbed head and tapering to a point. Used for tightening seizing, etc., and for opening strands when splicing. The knobbed end is used for pounding.



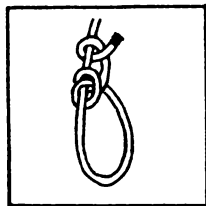
A MARLINGSPIKE — ON A LANTARD OF COURSE

MARLINGSPIKE HITCH. A temporary hitch made with a Marlingspike, or a tent peg, etc., when extra strain is needed to heave a small rope taut, as, for example, the turns of lashings or seizings. Also used on occasion in Sheepshanks or Harvester's Hitch.

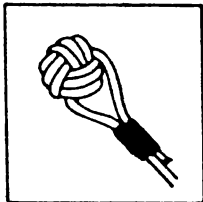
MATTHEW WALKER and **DOUBLE MATTHEW WALKER.** Probably the best and most useful of the multi-strand rope end knots. It is claimed that the unknown Matthew Walker is the only man to have a knot named after him.



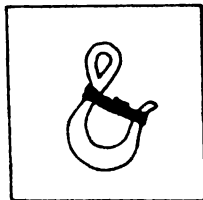
MIDDLEMAN'S KNOT



MIDSHIPMAN'S HITCH



MONKEY'S FIST



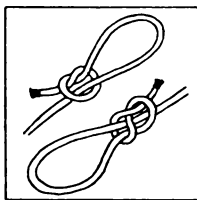
MOUSING A HOOK

MIDDLEMAN'S KNOT. Also called the **ENGLISHMAN'S LOOP**, (in America) the **FISHERMAN'S** or **ANGLER'S LOOP**, and it is one of the several knots known as **TRUE LOVER'S KNOT**. It is a useful loop knot tied in the bight by one of at least four different methods. Once much used for the middleman on a rope in climbing, but now superseded for this purpose by better knots such as the **Alpine Butterfly**.

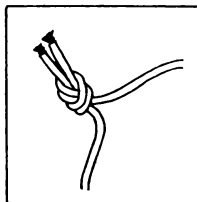
MIDSHIPMAN'S HITCH. An excellent hitch that can be temporarily or permanently made. When used to make a loop, it can be slid to adjust the loop for size. A good knot to know if you have fallen in the sea and a rope is tossed to you. Also useful as a **Guyline Hitch** or to substitute for a broken slider on a guyline. It is identical in form to the **Rolling Hitch**.

MONKEY'S FIST. A knob knot at the end of a rope, usually made round a pebble or ball of lead, etc. It is the best heaving line knot, the heavy core in the knot giving it the weight to carry the mass of the line when thrown.

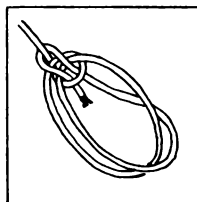
MOUSING A HOOK. If an appreciable load is to be on a block the hook should be "moused". This strengthens the hook and at the same time prevents the rope from jumping out. A "mouse" is also raised on a particular rope to prevent anything slipping off: in this case the diameter of the rope at the particular place is increased by building up with turns and riding turns.



THE NOOSE



OVERHAND BEND



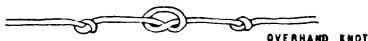
PORTUGUESE BOWLINE

NOOSE—definition. A loop which is made with the end round its own standing part in such a way that it draws tight when hauled upon. Often erroneously called a slip knot.

NOOSE, SIMPLE. The Simple Noose or Noose Knot is simply an Overhand Knot but with the final tuck made with a bight instead of an end. A Noose made with a base of the Figure-of-Eight Knot is to be preferred. See also the **RUNNING BOWLINE**.

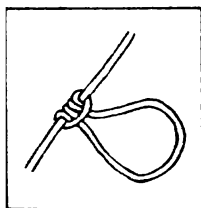
OVERHAND BEND. Also called the **THUMB KNOT**. Expedient as a bend, secure but weakening to the rope. It is the knot tied by a mechanical binder.

OVERHAND KNOT. Also called the **SIMPLE KNOT**, **COMMON KNOT**, **THUMB KNOT**, etc. It is the simplest knot form, secure but weakening the rope considerably and should only be used in small stuff. The **Figure-of-Eight Knot** is to be preferred.

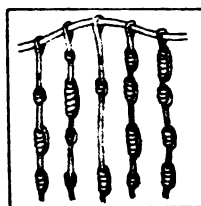


OVERHAND KNOT

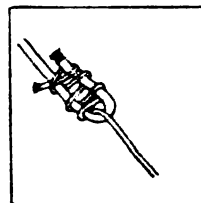
PORTUGUESE BOWLINE. There is some doubt as to which is the Portuguese and which is the French Bowline, or whether they are the same knot. Ashley gives the one shown here. It is an excellent double knot for rescue work or as a **Boat-swain's Chair**, made in the end of the rope.



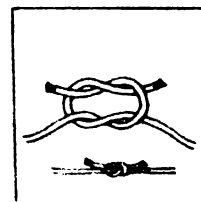
PRUSIK KNOT



A QUIPU



RACKING BEND



REEF KNOT

PRUSIK KNOT. A knot used by climbers.

It is made with a strop (endless loop, either spliced or tied) round the main climbing rope and the loop clipped into a karabiner on the climber's waist band. It can be loosened and slid along the rope to vary its position.

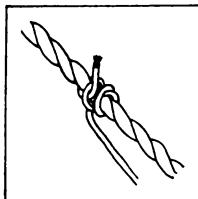
QUIPU. The Incas in Peru built and governed well a huge empire but never discovered the art of reading and writing. They evolved, however, a decimal system of numbers by which records of every conceivable nature were kept. This decimal system was operated by means of knots on lengths of cord of various colours which were known as Quipus.

RACKING BEND. When two ropes of widely different thicknesses have to be bent together, the conventional bends are virtually useless. The Racking Bend, however, serves the purpose excellently.

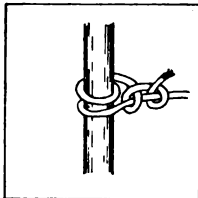
RACKING TURNS—definition. The turns in lashings and seizings taken in figure-of-eight fashion. See also Racking Bend.

REEF KNOT. The best known and most useful parcel knot. It should preferably only be tied with the two ends of the same material, but should *never* be used as a bend. It is the best knot for tying a triangular bandage.

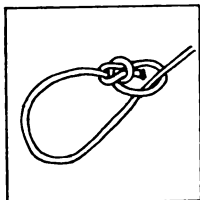
REEF POINTS—definition. Short lengths of rope sewn through a sail by means of which it can be snugly tied down when "reefed"—with Reef Knots, of course. Called "points" because the earliest ones which were made of sinnet were tapered or pointed.



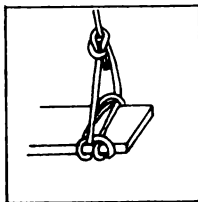
ROLLING HITCH



ROUND TURN AND TWO HALF HITCHES



RUNNING BOWLINE



SCAFFOLD HITCH

RIDING TURNS—definition. In seizings or whippings, a second layer of turns over the first and always one less in number.

ROLLING HITCH. A knot used to fasten a small rope to a larger one when the pull is at an acute angle. Used, for example, for hauling a tow rope by means of a thrown line. See also Magnus Hitch.

ROUND TURN—definition. When the two legs of a loop cross the rope has “taken a turn”. If one leg is taken round a second time, i.e. a second cross, it is a Round Turn. Taken round a third time makes Two Round Turns.



ROUND TURN AND TWO HALF HITCHES. Bearing in mind the definitions, the name is self-explanatory. A good hitch in almost all circumstances.

RUNNING BOWLINE. The knot which was universally used at sea whenever a noose was needed. Useful for com-m~~er~~ting to tie a parcel.

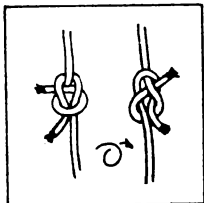
SCAFFOLD HITCH. A first-class method of slinging a plank to make a platform for such purposes as painting, etc.

SEIZING—definition. A binding or lashing of small stuff for example, to secure an end to the standing part after making a bend or hitch, to make an eye round a thimble, to draw two ropes together, etc.



SHEAR LASHING

SHEARS or SHEAR LEGS. Two spars lashed together at one end and guyed. Used for lifting heavy weights.



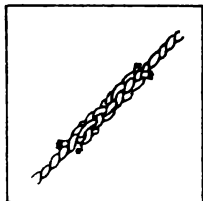
SHEET BEND

SHEAR LASHING. A lashing used to produce Shear Legs or, alternatively, a lashing to secure poles or spars end to end.

SHEEPSHANK. A knot tied in the bight for shortening a rope or taking up the slack, without cutting it. It can also be used to protect a weak, damaged or frayed section of the rope. See also Tom Fool Knot.



SHEEPSHANK

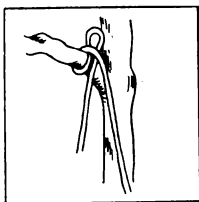


SHORT SPLICE

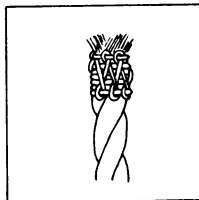
SHEET—definition. A rope used to trim the lower edge of a sail.

SHEET BEND. The most useful and practical knot for bending (tying) two ropes together. Note that to be correct the two ends should be on the same side of the knot. If the two ropes differ in thickness, a Double Sheet Bend should be used.

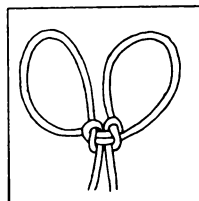
SHORT SPLICE. The best method of joining two ropes together end for end, provided that the spliced rope does not have to reeve through a block. It is stronger, more secure and more permanent than any bend.



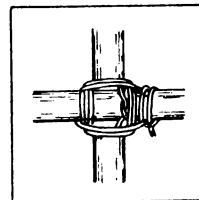
SLIPPERY HITCH



SLAKING



SPANISH BOWLINE



SQUARE LASHING

SINNET or SINNIT or SENNET, etc. Braided cordage, formerly always made by hand but now often by machine. Its particular advantage, apart from being decorative, is that it does not have the same tendency to kink as laid rope.

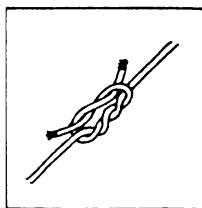
SLIPPERY HITCH. A method of securing a load temporarily and ready for instant casting off, in which a bight is simply held by the tension on the standing part. Not to be confused with a Slipped Hitch.

SLIPPED BEND, HITCH or KNOT—definition. Any bend, hitch or knot in which the final or securing tuck is made with a bight instead of an end. By pulling on the end, the knot can then break and release the load. Thus a “Half Bow” is a Slipped Reef Knot.

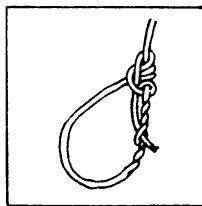
SLAKING. An addition to plain whipping on a rope. It is added partly to strengthen the whipping, particularly on large ropes, and partly for decorative purposes.

SPANISH BOWLINE. A double loop knot that is tied in the bight in which the two loops are splayed. Formerly used at sea for lowering a man from a height, or raising him aloft.

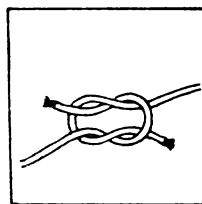
SQUARE LASHING. The standard lashing used to fasten two spars or poles together, not necessarily at right angles, where there is no tendency for them to spring apart.



SURGEON'S KNOT



TARBUCK KNOT



THIEF KNOT

SURGEON'S KNOT. This is a variation of the Reef Knot in which an extra turn is taken at the start to help prevent the knot from tending to loosen while being completed. Used by surgeons for tying a ligature and by us for parcels, etc.

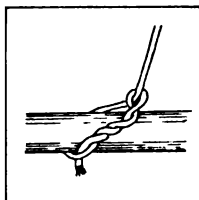
STANDING PART—definition. That part of the rope which is not actively in use in tying a knot, as distinct from the bight and the end. See illustration under Bight.

STRAP or STROP—definition. An endless loop of rope, usually a length the two ends of which are spliced together; used for slings, to hold a block or to fasten one to a rope along its length. Also the rope (wreath) fixed round a wooden block.

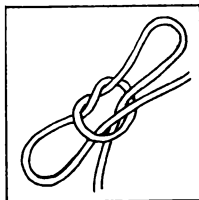
TARBUCK KNOT. A loop knot used in climbing and mountaineering and intended primarily for nylon ropes. Usually attached to a karabiner on the waist loop. Named by its inventor, the well-known British climber.

THIEF KNOT. A variation of the Reef Knot in which the ends are on opposite sides. Useless but interesting owing to the legend that it was made by sailors to catch thieves who presumably assumed it to be a Reef Knot.

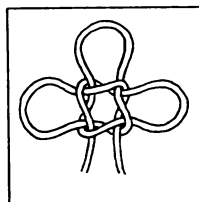
THIMBLE — definition. A metal eye, round or pear shaped, inserted in an eye splice or a cringle, etc., when another rope is intended to run through the eye. Often used in the Honda of a lasso.



TIMBER HITCH



TOM FOOL KNOT



TRUE LOVER'S KNOT

TIMBER HITCH. One of the simplest yet most effective of hitches. Used on spars, bales, etc., for commencing a diagonal lashing, and with extra half-hitches added, for towing or dragging, etc.

TOM FOOL KNOT. This is sometimes considered as a Handcuff Knot but is somewhat inferior for this purpose to the knot which usually bears that name. It is a good knot with which to commence a slightly fancy Sheepshank. It is also used as a trick knot—it can be tied in a flash in almost a single movement—and is sometimes called the Conjuror's Knot.



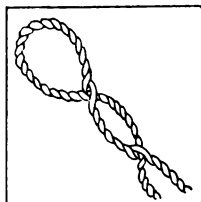
SHEEPSHANK FROM TOM FOOL KNOT

TRUE LOVER'S KNOT. There are a number of knots which have been given this name from time to time, including the Middleman's Knot, but the one shown here, also known as the Shamrock Knot, appears to have the best claim to the title. It is also known in the Far East where it is often found on Chinese Priest Cords.

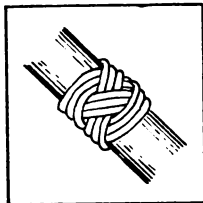
TUCKED BEND. Also called the **TUCKED SPLICE**. When two ends of small stuff have to be joined together in the middle of a job, such as a serving, a knot might be too bulky. The Tucked Bend bulks less than a Reef Knot and is useful for such purposes.



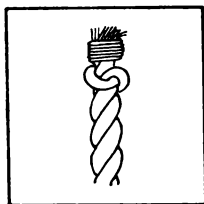
TUCKED BEND



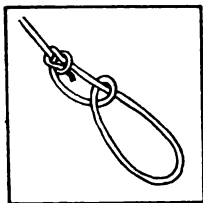
TUCKED EYE SPLICE



TURK'S HEAD



WALL KNOT



WATER BOWLINE

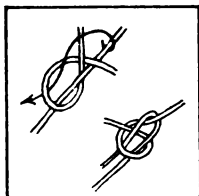
TUCKED EYE SPLICE. Sometimes known as the **MARLINE EYE SPLICE**. It is mainly used in small stuff but is often used in the centre of a long guy line when it is required to fit over the "dolly" on the top of a tent pole.

TURK'S HEAD. The Turk's Head is, more accurately, a system rather than just a knot, generally tubular in form, decorative and very useful. Basically a binding knot, but can be worked flat for decorative purposes. Can be made with separate strands (Standing Turk's Heads) or with a single, continuous strand (Running Turk's Head).

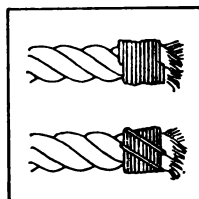
TURN—definition. See **ROUND TURN**.

WALL KNOT. A knot worked in the end of a rope with the unlaid strands. Occasionally used on its own as a Rope End Knot but more often as part of a more complex knot, e.g., the Man Rope Knot, etc. It is the exact opposite of a Crown Knot.

WATER BOWLINE. When a rope has to be pulled through water, any knot has a tendency to tighten and jam. In the case of a Bowline, an extra hitch as shown will lessen this tendency.



WEAVER'S KNOT

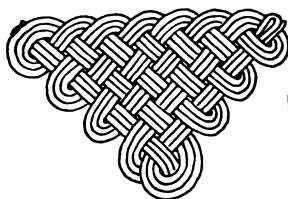


WHIPPINGS

WEAVER'S KNOT. A weaver frequently has to tie knots and many different ones have been used by him. The one shown here is the one most frequently known by this name: it is the Sheet Bend but tied in a special and rapid manner originally peculiar to the weaver.

WHIPPING. When a rope "whips" in the wind the end will quickly unravel and fray. Protection can be given by a knot or a Back Splice but the best and most used method is to use a Whipping. There are a number of different types used, two of the best known of which are shown here.

THE



END



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